

STATE OF KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT
CURTIS STATE OFFICE BUILDING
1000 SW JACKSON ST., SUITE 400
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1367



PHONE (785) 296-1535
FAX (785) 559-4264
WWW.KDHEKS.GOV

GOVERNOR JEFF COLYER, M.D.
JEFF ANDERSEN, SECRETARY

July 10, 2018

Ms. Jorianne Jernberg
US Environmental Protection Agency
William Jefferson Clinton West Building – Room 6210A
1301 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Ms. Jernberg:

The City of Wichita, Kansas will be submitting a Letter of Interest seeking credit assistance from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) strongly supports Wichita's proposed project and encourages the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide the assistance requested.

Wichita is the largest water utility in the State of Kansas serving a total population of approximately 470,000. In addition to 390,000 retail customers the City provides water service to fifteen (15) public water supply systems in the surrounding region serving an additional 80,000 people. Wichita's retail and wholesale customers are dependent upon a single water treatment plant constructed in the 1930's which has reached the end of its useful life. The City does have multiple sources of water but because all water is treated through the single treatment plant a failure at the plant could result in a total loss of supply. During the most recent sanitary survey the inspector noted the deteriorated condition of the treatment plant and recommended allocation of resources for replacement of failed and outdated equipment. Due to the age of the plant and the limited space for improvements, rehabilitating the existing water treatment plant while maintaining water service is likely not feasible.

In August of 2017 the EPA Water Security Division in partnership with KDHE conducted a Water Emergency Roundtable with Wichita and its wholesale customers. The discussion during this Workshop focused on the impact a loss of water service would have on the City and its customers. The Workshop also highlighted the urgent need for Wichita to construct a new water treatment plant. This new water treatment plant would provide the City of Wichita the future flexibility to further build redundancy by exploring options to rehabilitate the existing water treatment plant.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact me at cathy.tucker-vogel@ks.gov or (785) 368-7130. Your approval of credit assistance for this very important project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cathy Tucker-Vogel, Chief
Public Water Supply Section
Bureau of Water

Pc: Jaime Gaggero, Director, Bureau of Water
William Carr